

**CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) A mobile alerter for a mobile communication device, said mobile alerter comprising:

a processor;  
a power supply;  
a wireless receiver to communicate with said mobile communication device;  
notification hardware for triggering a notification of an incoming alert; and  
a connection interface for removably connecting said mobile alerter to said mobile communication device;  
said mobile alerter forming the notification unit of said mobile communication device such that

when said mobile alerter is in a tethered mode, said mobile alerter outputs notification alerts for said mobile communication device triggered when a notification message is received from said mobile communication device by said mobile alerter via said connection interface ~~when said mobile alerter is in a tethered mode, and~~  
when said mobile alerter is in an un-tethered mode, said mobile alerter outputs notification alerts for said mobile communication device triggered when a notification message is received from said mobile communication device by said mobile alerter via said wireless receiver ~~when said mobile alerter is in an un-tethered mode.~~

2. (previously presented) The mobile alerter of claim 1, wherein said notification hardware comprises at least one type of hardware selected from the following group: a speaker, a vibrator, and a light.

3. (previously presented) The mobile alerter of claim 1, wherein said power supply comprises a battery.

4. (previously presented) A mobile communication device comprising:
- a processor;
  - a wireless communication means to communicate with a wireless network;
  - a wireless transmitter for communication with a wireless network;
  - a wireless receiver for communication with a wireless network;
  - a wireless transmitter for communication with a mobile alerter of claim 1;
  - a housing with a cavity for receiving said mobile alerter; and
  - a connection interface for receiving said mobile alerter.
5. (previously presented) The mobile communication device of claim 4, wherein said wireless communication means comprises at least one form of communication means selected from the following group: a voice communication means, and a data communication means.
6. (previously presented) The mobile communication device of claim 4, wherein said connection interface comprises at least one form of interface selected from the following group: a serial interface, a parallel interface, a USB interface, a Firewire interface, and a wireless interface.
7. (currently amended) A method for receiving notification on a mobile alerter, said mobile alerter removably connectable to a mobile device, the method comprising the steps of:
- receiving a first notification message alert on a mobile communication device from a wireless network;
  - sending out a second notification message alert from said mobile communication wireless device to said mobile alerter, said mobile alerter forming the notification unit of said mobile communication device such that

when said mobile alerter is in a tethered mode, said mobile alerter outputs notification alerts for said mobile communication device triggered when a second notification message is received from said mobile communication device by said mobile alerter via a connection interface ~~when said mobile alerter is in a tethered mode,~~  
and

when said mobile alerter is in an un-tethered mode, said mobile alerter outputs notification alerts for said mobile communication device triggered when a second notification message is received from said mobile communication device by said mobile alerter via a wireless receiver ~~when said mobile alerter is in an un-tethered mode;~~

receiving said second notification message alert on said mobile alerter;  
and

triggering notification hardware to alert a user of incoming said second notification message received by said mobile alerter of said mobile communication device.

8. (cancelled).

9. (previously presented) The mobile communication device of claim 4, wherein the connection interface of the mobile device is located within the cavity of the housing of the mobile device, the cavity being adapted to slidably receive the mobile alerter.